

Surveying Special Needs
Surviving Summer Storms
Scrutinizing Surprise:

The Annual Report





CITY COUNCIL 623.583.5899

Joan Shafer, Mayor
Danny Arismendez, Vice Mayor
Martha Bails
Cliff Elkins
Gwyn Foro
Joe Johnson
Gary "Doc" Sullivan

contact us

CITY MANAGER 623.583.1080

Jim Rumpeltes

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION 623.583.1088

Ken Senft, Chairman Janelle Blair Bob Gonzales Daniel Morris Randy Nachtigall Antonio Segarra Skip Hall

WINNER! 3CMA Silver Circle Award, 2004

3CMA Silver Circle Award, 2003

3CMA Award of Excellence, 2002

Surprise Progress is published by the City of Surprise Communications Department and distributed to all City residents via mail. We hope you like our format and content. We'd like to hear from you about Surprise Progress. Please call or e-mail us.

CITY OF SURPRISE

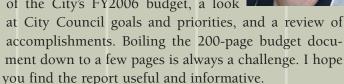
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Dave Reuter Communications Director E: david.reuter@surpriseaz.com

Cover: Janae Greer submitted the winning entry in Surprise's first photography contest. Her Grand Prize winning landscape was photographed at the northwest corner of Loop 303 and Greenway Road. It, along with 14 other top photos, will make up the third edition of Surprise's photo essay book, "Surprise, Arizona: Through Residents' Eyes," to be published in July.

Communications Director **Dave Reuter**

In this edition of *Surprise Progress* you will find the City's Annual Report. The report offers readers an overview of the City's FY2006 budget, a look



For people who want to view the budget in its entirety, copies will soon be available at Surprise City Hall, the Northwest Regional Library and the City website at www. surpriseaz.com.

Also in this edition, Public Information Officer Janice Tarleton introduces the City's Special Needs Commission and its efforts to make sure our great city is barrier free and accessible to everyone. One of the Commission's projects is a community wide survey that seeks to gather information about our residents with special needs. I urge you to take a few moments to complete the survey, fold and tape it, and drop it into a mailbox. We will report the results in the next edition of *Surprise Progress*.

Finally, if you haven't had a chance to stop by and take a look at the City's new website, I urge you to do so. Our webmaster, Hank Franco, has done a wonderful job with the facelift, and in the coming months you will be seeing many new features, including a special online version of *Surprise Progress* called *Surprise Progress Plus*. I know Hank would like to hear from you; please contact him at webmaster@surpriseaz.com, or at 623.875.4238.

4

Special mission

Making Surprise an ADA-compliant and special-needs-friendly City is the goal of a volunteer commission.

6

A five-star fourth

There are at least five fabulous ways to celebrate the Fourth of July in Surprise this year.



Storm smarts

Albeit spectacular, Surprise's summer storms can also pose some serious safety issues.

ANNUAL REPORT STARTS ON PAGE 11

CORRECTION:

It was incorrectly stated in the April 27 edition of *Surprise Progress* that the City will collect \$190,000 over the next 20 years as a result of the Councilapproved 1.5 percent increase in the construction sales tax. The number should be \$190 million.

-Council Updates :

Gwyn Foro was sworn-in as the newest member of the Surprise City Council on June 6. A Rose Garden resident since 2001, she gar-

nered 52 percent of the vote in the May mail-in ballot

general election to replace incumbent Thomas Allen as the Palo Verde District (6) representative. Foro's four-year term expires in December 2009.

Foro was born into a Navy family, is a Navy veteran, and has worked for the Phoenix Police Department since 1990. She earned a bachelor's degree in justice studies from Arizona State University and a master's degree in human resources from Ottawa University, and has traveled extensively both in the United States and abroad. She shares a home with her mother.

The Palo Verde District includes Coyote Lakes, Canyon Ridge West, Sunflower Resort, Sun Ridge, Sun Village, Rose Garden, Fox Hill Run and the eastern portion of the City's Original Townsite. **Contact Foro at 623.583.5899.**

Cliff Elkins, representative of the Acacia District (1) and Joe Johnson, representative of the Palm District (5), were sworn-in in May. Both were elected to the council in a recall election in September 2004 and were re-elected to their first four-year terms during the March 2005 primary. Their terms also expire in December 2009.

HOA Academy

The ideas and activities were very interesting, the information was meaningful and the visual aids were excellent.

The session more than met my expectations.

~ members of February 2005 class Learn the ABCs of HOAs at the fall session of Surprise's six-week Homeowner's Association Training Academy. The evening sessions will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. for five

consecutive Mondays starting Sept. 26 at Paradise Education Center, 15533 W. Paradise Lane. The final class will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

Topics include governing and managing an association, insurance, financials, city codes, HOA compliance and enforcement, police and fire support services, vendors, bids and contracts, dispute resolution, and much more.

The class is limited to 45 and there will be a \$20 fee. Call Ruby Sitea at 623.583.0653 for more information or an application.

SURPRISE.

CITY COUNCIL 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month July 14, 28 Aug. 11, 25

> Surprise Regional Library 16089 N. Bullard Ave. Info: 623.583.1098

> > PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

6 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month July 5, 19

Aug. 2, 16

Surprise Regional Library 16089 N. Bullard Ave.

Info: 623.875.4332
City Council and Planning

and Zoning
Commission meetings are broadcast
live on Surprise11.
Surprise11 is

available to Cox Cable subscribers in Surprise and Sun City West hanger.

Council meetings are rebroadcast several times during the week following the meeting. Broadcast times are:

8 a.m. Friday, noon Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Monday, 2 a.m. Wednesday

> ARTS & CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD 623.583.5899

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD 623.875.4273

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD 623,266,4507

> REVITALIZATION ADVISORY BOARD 623.815.5495

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE 623.875.4246

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMISSION 623.875.4350

who to know



Jean Poe

Risk Coordinator and staff liaison to the Special Needs Commission

Employee since:

September 2001

Hometown:

Jefferson City, Mo.

Education: Bachelor's degree in Industrial Safety from Central Missouri State University; Certified Safety Professional and currently working toward a Certified Risk Manager Designation

Family: Married; two daughters (8 and 10)

Hobbies: Attending children's sports activities,

boating and camping

Philosophy of Life: "I always try to look for the good

in people or situations."

Goal for Commission: "I want to promote disabilities awareness to the public and recognize individuals, businesses and organizations that are making a difference."

If nothing else, Surprise's risk coordinator Jean Poe is practical. When the architecture major realized she wasn't cut out for sitting at a desk all day, she transferred to an industrial safety major because the curriculums were similar and she could still earn a degree in four years. And, when the insurance company she worked for offered a transfer to lowa or Arizona in 1986, the choice was obvious. "It was January," she said.

For Poe, a Surprise resident who spent 16 years working for insurance companies as a safety consultant for commercial accounts, she was a natural fit for the City's risk coordinator position, created in 2001. Poe handles all insurance-related issues, from auto, property and liability claims to worker's compensation issues, and oversees the City-wide Safety Program.

Her duties expanded last summer, when the City Manager's office appointed her as the staff liaison to the newly formed Special Needs Commission. It was a new venture for Poe, who immediately attended an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) symposium in Kansas City, Mo., but it has become a fresh passion, as well. "Surprise really is a new city and the Special Needs Commission is very timely," she said. "I would like to see us set the standard for other communities and I think the strategic plan we're developing will enable us to do that."



Surprise resident John Longabaugh knows first-hand the challenges of living and maneuvering in a mostly mobile society. Born with cerebral palsy, coordination and balance problems caused him to use crutches or a wheelchair all of his life, but it has barely slowed him down. With a positive attitude and the tenacity of his mascot, the tortoise, Longabaugh has steadily advocated for his and others' ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-given rights.

Nearly 18,000 Surprise residents – maybe more – fall under the definition of special needs, according to the national average of 20 percent. Longabaugh suspects the number is even higher in Surprise. "When it's one in four or five, it's incumbent on the City to address that group," he said.

And, with plans to develop DreamCatcher Park, a recreation facility designed for the disabled and destined as a host home for Special Olympics, **Surprise is likely to attract a larger-than-average special needs population.** That means proactive planning in areas beyond recreation.

"We just want the right to live our lives as best we can within our own limitations," Longabaugh explained. That includes full access to public facilities, transportation options and public awareness. "I've had that opportunity, but I've had to fight for it for 30-plus years."

He's worked as a disability coordinator for NASA in the 70's and, in 1980, created a program for California's Santa Clara County – one he also administered for 23 years until his retirement in 2003 – and, in his spare time, raised two children and foster parented 11 more. Now Longabaugh is volunteering his time and expertise to Surprise as a member of the City Council-appointed Special Needs Commission. Formed nearly a year ago, the mission of the seven-member Commission is to ensure that Surprise is ADA-friendly and compliant.

The group has been meeting twice a month since August. "The commission has been the best move for the city to address these concerns and requirements, but **there's just**

Special Needs Commission

"We just want the right to live our lives as best we can within our own limitations."

~ John Longabaugh

so much to do," said Commission Chairman Ted Carr, who spent 38 years of his working career with the Corps of Engineers as an Outdoor Recreation Planner and the last 20 of those ensuring agencies with facilities on federal land were ADA-compliant. The able-bodied Carr still remembers a sensitivity training exercise in 1968 when his hands and feet were tied, he was placed in a wheelchair, and challenged to get onto a toilet.

Some of the Commission's main concerns are:

- **♦ Ensuring ADA compliance** in all future and existing public buildings.
- ◆ Developing a comprehensive list of services available in the West Valley.
- **♦ Increasing transportation** options.

Raising public awareness has been the first priority of the commission: Helping the City staff to understand ADA requirements and develop sensitivity to special needs; learning themselves how City processes work. "We're seeing a lot of buildings being developed where ADA is not being adhered to," Longabaugh said. Eventually, the commission would like to see one of its members become part of the Community Development Department's plan review team. They're even educating homebuilders on the benefits of catering to the special needs market.

The next order of business is development of a strategic plan. That's where **the commission is asking residents to get involved by filling out and returning the enclosed special needs survey.** "The Commission wishes to advocate for the non-vocal citizens of Surprise," said Carr. "So far, we've talked with individuals, but we want to put our collective voices together in a positive action group that can make the City aware of the needs. This survey is your first step in having a voice."

Closed Captioning

Surprise11, the City's government access television channel, offers **closed captioning** for the hearing impaired. **Assisted listening devices** are available from the City Clerk and for use during City Council meetings.

Late last year, the City Council approved funding to purchase equipment and pay for transcription services. **Both services** are required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Closed captioning is available only for City Council meetings now, but Planning and Zoning meetings may be added in July. Closed captioning services cost about \$150 per hour.

Surprise 11 is available to Cox Cable subscribers in Surprise and Sun City West. For more information on these services, call 623.583.4840.

TDD numbers

Police: 623.583.1079
City Hall: 623.875.4208
Municipal Court: 623.972.4907
Community and Recreation Services:
623.266.4420

Parking Fines

DID YOU KNOW?

The fine in Surprise for parking in a handicapped parking space without displaying proper authorization (a handicapped license plate or a placard hung on the rear-view mirror) is **\$205**. The bond amount is set by Surprise's Municipal Judge and is less than half of the maximum amount allowed by law, \$455.

The bond amount has not changed in several years. However, at the direction of the Surprise City Council, the Police Department stepped up enforcement in late 2004 by authorizing the volunteer Surprise Citizens Patrol to issue tickets for parking violations. Recently, Citizens Patrol members were instructed to photograph both the front and back of the vehicle before ticketing.

"We've chosen to take a firm stance on handicapped parking because we have quite a few people who need those spaces," said Mayor Joan Shafer. "It's our duty to see that those spaces are available to those who are entitled to them."



Keri L Cotton's photo of a child playing at the Surprise Community Park took first place in Surprise's first photography contest. A total of 15 winning photos will be published in a booklet, available in late July, in the City's Communications Department, 12425 W. Bell Road.



"Orange you glad we're building a better Bell," was the theme of a May 2 event where Surprise City Council members, administrators and engineering staff handed out oranges and orange drinks to drivers on Bell Road. For more information on the \$10 million, 3-5 year improvement plan, visit BellRoadImprovements.com. To request a speaker for your group, call 623.583.4840.

upcoming events

REPTILE ADVENTURES INC.

Rich Ihle of Reptile Adventures Inc. delivers information and a hands-on experience with a variety of reptile friends. For ages 3 and up. No registration needed.

Time: 10 a.m. July 9

Location: Surprise's Northwest Regional Library

16089 N. Bullard Ave.

Info: 623.544.6371

BABY SHOTS

Free immunizations by Surprise firefighters

Time: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Aug. 13 Location: 15626 N. Hollyhock St. (in front of Station 301)

Info: 623.583.8225

SURPRISE SERENADES CONCERT SERIES

Co-sponsored by the City, these monthly concerts feature a variety of Arizona entertainers and are free to Surprise residents

Time: 7 p.m. July 21: Country and Pop by

The Stragglers

7 p.m. Aug. 18: Classical music by the Emiola Chamber Ensemble

Location: West Valley Art Museum,

17420 N. Avenue of the Arts

Info: 623.972.0635 or wvam.org

SUMMER ART CLASSES

A full palette of exciting art activities for ages 7 to 13. Morning and afternoon classes available.

Time: Weekdays through Aug. 5

Location: West Valley Art Museum, 17420 N. Avenue of the Arts

Info: 623.972.0635 or wvam.org

SURPRISE'S FIVE-STAR FOURTH

There are at least five ways to celebrate the Fourth of July in Surprise this year as Surprise's Community and Recreation Services Department presents a Five-Star Event at five locations. Enjoy top-notch entertainment, crazy contests, Fightin' Falcons baseball, pool parties and fireworks.

Date: July 4
Time: 7-9 p.m.
Fireworks: 9 p.m.

Fireworks: 9 p.m. **Locations:** Surprise Stadium,

Community Park, 8 Acres, Surprise Aquatic Center &

Hollyhock Pool.

Surprise Stadium

• Surprise Fightin' Falcons vs. San Diego Surf Dogs

• Game Time 6:05 p.m.

Community Park

- Entertainment
 - The Rave performing on stage 7-9 p.m.
 - Jesse McGuire
 - Fireworks following the baseball game (about 8:30-9 p.m.)
 - Activities
- Eating Contest
 - Adult Rib eating
 - Youth Ice Cream eating
 - Entry forms at Community & Recreation Services Office

- Best Homemade Apple Pie Contest
 - Entry forms at Community & Recreation Services Office
- Clowns, Balloons & Face Painters

8 Acres

• Family Picnic Area – bring blankets, lawn chairs, ice chest

Surprise Aquatic Center

- Pool Party 400 capacity
- Tickets available June 27

Hollyhock Pool

- Pool Party 200 capacity
- Tickets available June 27

Info: 623.266.4500

coming soon

Surprise's Community Development Department reports the following businesses are now under construction:

RESTAURANTS: Carrabas and TGI Fridays, southwest corner of Bell and Litchfield roads; El Paso Barbeque Company, 13823 W. Bell Road; McDonald's, 13933 N. Litchfield Road; China Buffet, 17119 N. Litchfield Road.

IN THE FIELDS OF SURPRISE OFFICE COMPLEX AT BELL ROAD AND 150TH AVENUE: DC Canyon Health and Wellness, Dr. Blair Feldman DDS, Eberhart DDS, Wellman DDS, Dr. Todd Garrett DDS, Farmer's Insurance, PSP and Associates, Remax Professionals and Larkin and Associates.

BANKS AND GROCERY: Bank of America, 13780 W. Waddell Road; First Bank of Arizona, 14291 W. Grand Ave; Henry's Market, 15569 W. Bell Road in Macayo's Plaza; Safeway, 13828 W. Waddell Road.

RETAIL: Hampton Inn, 14783 W. Grand Ave.; Sherwin Williams Paint, 14039 W. Grand Ave; Metropolitan Mattress, Fantastic Sams, In Touch Wireless Solutions and Lavendar's in Surprise Village shops on the northeast corner of Bell and Litchfield roads; Walgreens, 15514 W. Litchfield Road; Natural Health Care Alternative, 18761 N. Reems Road.

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS: Parkway Christian Church, 14787 W. Cholla; Rancho Gabriela Elementary, 15272 W. Gabriela Drive; Sierra Montana Elementary, 17825 W. Sierra Montana Loop; Huntington Learning Center, 17173 N. Litchfield Road.

OTHER: Fire Station **301**, 15760 N. Village Drive; **Bade Family LLC**, 18700 block of N. Reems Road.

now open

Eatza Pizza, 17221 N. Litchfield Road in the Surprise Village shops

Kearny Chiropractic, 16846 W. Bell Road **Las Cuartos Hermanas** (restaurant), 15808 N. El Mirage Road

Money Mart, 13420 W. Bell Road New Day Counseling, 15282 W. Brookside Lane Spisak Dance Academy, 13260 West Foxfire Drive, Suite 23

Sprint, 13371 W. Grand Ave.

Sold It on eBay, 14537 W. Grand Ave.

Sunrise Salon and Spa (expansion), 19509 N. Sunrise Blvd.

Sunrise Adult Care Home, 13299 W. Statler St.

The Board Shack, 13260 W. Foxfire Dr.

Ulta, 13707 W. Bell Road in Surprise Marketplace **White Eagle Deli**, 16846 W. Bell Road

IN THE SURPRISE MEDICAL AND PROFESSIONAL OFFICE BUILDING, 18700 BLOCK OF NORTH REEMS ROAD:

Perry & Perry Executives
Fox Company Investments
John Streight DDS
State Farm

"Fight the Bite"

To learn more about West Nile Virus, or to report standing water or mosquitoes:

Maricopa.gov/wnv or 602.506.0700



Surprise residents are being offered a money-saving incentive to get acquainted with the Heard Museum this summer. The world-renowned museum, specializing in the art and culture of the Southwestern native people, is opening a satellite branch in Surprise early next year. Heard Museum West will be located in the government section of Surprise Center west of Litchfield and north of Greenway.

Surprise residents present this coupon and receive

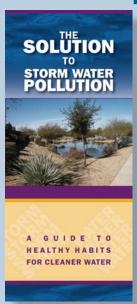
2 FOR 1 ADMISSION TO THE HEARD MUSEUM

Not valid with any other offer. Valid through September 31, 2005

HEARD MUSEUM
NATIVE CULTURES & ART

2301 N. Central Avenue | Phoenix 602.252.8848 | www.heard.org

Stop storm water pollution



Polluted storm water runoff is one of the leading sources of water contamination. That's why Surprise's Water Services Department has created a brochure aimed at teaching residents what they can do to prevent storm water pollution.

In Surprise, storm water runoff is mainly transported through streets, curbs and open channels directly to community retention / infiltration basins, parks, washes and nearby rivers. The untreated storm water runoff generally re-enters our water supply through ground-

water recharge. So while the City of Surprise on average receives less than nine inches of rainfall a year, storm water quality is still a serious concern.

HERE'S WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO TO HELP:

- Avoid washing vehicles in the driveway or street where detergent, oil, grease and metal brake particles can enter the storm water system. Use a carwash, grass or gravel area.
- Pick-up after pets, especially in parks.
- Avoid and report dumping of chemicals. Call the Public Works Department at 623.583.0947 to find out how to safely dispose of paint products,

household cleaners, used oil, engine coolant and other contaminants.

- Report the following to the storm water pollution hotline, 623.875.4290:
 - Suspicious dry weather discharges to the storm water system
 - Sediment runoff tracked-out from poorly controlled construction sites
 - Leaking vehicles
 - Standing water

THE STORMWATER
POLUTION
BROCHURE IS
AVAILABLE AT
CITY HALL, 12425
W. BELL ROAD;
BY CALLING
623.875.4290; OR
BY VISITING THE
WATER SERVICES
DEPARTMENT AT
SURPRISEAZ.COM.

STORM

LOCAL RESOURCES

Local emergency 9-1-1

To report flooded roads or downed trees, 623.583.0947
To report a traffic signal out, 623.583.1085
To report a power outage, 602.371.7171
To report a cable outage, 623.594.1000

Sand and bags are available, free of charge, at Surprise's Vehicle Maintenance Yard, 16560 N. Dysart Road. Residents are encouraged to bring a shovel.

Following severe storms, Surprise's Public Works Department will patrol the City to clear storm drains, downed trees and debris, and to offer aid to residents in flooded areas.

STAY SAFE DURING SUMMER STORMS

Arizona's monsoon season spawns some spectacular storms but, if you're new to the area, you need to know that it also poses some serious safety issues.

Monsoon season, which starts about July 7 and continues into mid-September, results in about 2.5 inches of rain or one-third of the Valley's yearly rainfall. **Weather conditions range from minor dust storms to violent thunderstorms**, and sometimes include small tornados. An Arizona monsoon typically starts with heavy winds often resulting in a visible wall of dust - hundreds of feet high - moving across the Valley. The dust is normally followed by frequent thunder and lightning, power outages and heavy downpours.

When such high volume rain descends upon the Valley of the Sun, surface streets quickly flood causing **slick driving conditions**, and normally dry desert washes are host to **flash floods**. Drivers will normally encounter signs cautioning against crossing the road when flooded, and these are signs that should be carefully heeded. Even if the water rushing across the road looks only an inch or two deep, it may very well be so deep that vehicles, including high clearance trucks, stall and get stuck in the wash. Firefighters and other rescue workers generally have to be called in to rescue motorists before their vehicles wash downstream or are covered by the unexpected runoff. Those rescuers are usually accompanied by television news helicopters capturing the rescue on videotape to be broadcast, sometimes live, as a warning to others.

That's only the beginning of the humiliation trapped drivers face. In Arizona, under the so-called "Stupid Motorist

SMARTS



Law," municipalities and rescue agencies can charge people for the cost of being rescued if they fail to observe posted warnings.

IF YOU'RE CAUGHT **OUTDOORS:**

1. If you see a sign that says "Do Not Cross When Flooded", take it seriously. If you are caught in a wash, try to

climb out on the roof of your vehicle and wait for help. Use your cell phone if available to call 9-1-1.

- 2. If you're driving when it's raining, slow down. Remember that the start of a rainstorm is the most dangerous times since oils and other automotive fluids are being washed off the roads causing unusually slick conditions.
- 3. If your visibility is impeded by heavy rain or blowing dust, slowly pull off to the side of the road as far to the right as possible, turn off your car, turn off your lights, and keep your foot off the brake pedal. Otherwise, drivers may come up quickly behind you assuming that you're still in motion.
- 4. To avoid being struck by lightning, stay away from open fields, high land, trees, poles, other tall objects, standing bodies of water including swimming pools, and metal objects including golf clubs and lawn chairs.

IF YOU'RE AT HOME:

1. Turn off all unnecessary electrical equipment during storms

to decrease the demand on power companies. This is a prime time for power outages in the area.

- 2. Because of the risk of power failure, keep batteries, a working battery-powered radio or television, flashlights, and candles handy.
- 3. Stay off the phone. Even cordless phones can cause a shock in cases of nearby lightning strikes. Use cellular phones for emergencies only.
- 4. Stay away from plumbing fixtures including showers, baths, and sinks. Lightning can travel through metal pipes.
- 5. Keep your distance from windows as high winds can blow heavy debris.

Arizona Monsoon, a free 8-page booklet produced by **Surprise's Commu**nications Department, is available at City Hall, 12425 W. **Bell Road; by calling** 623.583.4840; or by visiting Communications Department at surpriseaz.com.

POLICE

honor outstanding members



Chris Tovar was honored as the **Surprise Police Department's** 2004 Officer of the Year at a banquet in May. Tovar, who was nominated by his peers, has worked as an officer for about seven years, four of them in Surprise.

One nominator wrote, "I am continually hearing stories from citizens about bad experiences with other jurisdictions... and how this officer has changed their opinion about the police for the better."

In other awards, Irenea Ordaz was named the 2004 Civilian Employee of the year. A Community Service Officer, she was lauded as a team player who goes above and beyond expectations. Peer comments included, "She gives 110 percent on a daily basis, taking on whatever is asked of her without complaint," and "selfless with an amazing work ethic."

Citizens Patrol member Bud **Prokop** was selected by his peers as the Volunteer of the Year. In his year-plus with the Citizens Patrol, he has volunteered more than 700 hours. Known as "Mr. Baseball" due to the number of Spring Training games he worked, Prokop is also one of the organization's field training officers.

{ law enforcement }

CHOTEBOOK

CITY OFFICES CLOSE FOR HOLIDAY

City Hall will be closed on Monday, July 4 for Independence Day. No City services will be provided. Trash normally collected on Monday will be picked up on Wednesday instead. Tuesday customers will not be affected.

SMALL BUSINESS HELP AVAILABLE

Got a business, or want to start one? Surprise's Economic Development Department is willing to help – and it won't cost a dime. Through a new Small Business Assistance Program, the City offers one-on-one coaching and counseling to existing and would-be entrepreneurs, helping them establish business plans and access private and public resources. "We're trying to empower people," said Ruth Clark, the economic development coordinator administering the program. The idea is to use previously untapped resources to stimulate Surprise's economy and provide more jobs within the rapidly growing community.

The City is also looking for business professionals to act as a volunteer resource for small businesses. *Info*: 623.875.4273

BEWARE OF PHONE SCAM

If a caller from Canada says you've won \$100,000, don't believe him. Surprise Police are warning residents of a new telephone scam where a caller, posing as a representative of the National Bank of Canada, **tells residents they will receive \$100,000**, divided into \$50,000 checks, provided they wire money to a company in Canada to facilitate the transfer into U.S. currency. The caller even provides potential victims with check numbers and a phone number, **allegedly for the National Bank of Canada**, where they can verify the call is valid.

The National Bank of Canada is aware of the scam and advises anyone who receives such a call to alert the organization, Phone Busters, at 888.495.8501 or www.phonebusters.com. Police are also reminding residents never to release personal information to anyone who calls. That includes credit card numbers, social security number or mother's maiden name.

SENIOR NEWS

JOBS OPEN TO SENIOR ADULTS

Senior adults interested in brushing up on their skills before re-entering the work force can earn while they learn at the Surprise Senior Center. The Senior Center is a designated training site for the Senior Community Service Employment Program under Title V of the Older Americans Act. The program is designed to assist income-eligible senior adults to transition into competitive employment once they have completed their paid training program. Several positions are available.

Title V participants must be at least 55-yearsold, an Arizona resident and qualify as low income. *Info*: 623.583.0653

NOMINEES NEEDED FOR SAFETY DAY

Senior Safety Day is just around the corner and Surprise's Neighborhood Services Division would like residents to nominate their neighborhood to participate. If selected, homeowners in that neighborhood, with at least one occupant over the age of 55, could be eligible to receive free safety devices such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, flashlights, nightlights and power strips. The program is sponsored by the City of Surprise, the Surprise Fire Department, and the Surprise Lowe's. *Info*: 623.815.5495

SUMMER TRIPS SCHEDULED

The Surprise Senior Center is offering the following day trips: July 1, Ringling Brothers' Circus, \$15; July 12, Fort McDowell Casino, \$3; and Aug. 10, "Nunsense" at the Broadway Palms Dinner Theatre, \$40. Space is limited and offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

The Senior Center, located at 15832 N. Hollyhock St., offers a variety of activities and classes for age 60 and up. There is a \$10 annual fee to join and the Center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. *Info*: 623.583.0653





Getting Ahead of the Curve



Joan Shafer Mayor



Jim Rumpeltes City Manager

city council

Joan Shafer, Mayor

Danny Arismendez, Vice Mayor

Martha Bails

Cliff Elkins

Gwyn Foro

Joe Johnson

Gary "Doc" Sullivan

city manager

Jim Rumpeltes

Kathy Rice, Assistant City Manager

Phil Testa, Deputy City Manager

The budget is based on 7,000 new home starts. That translates to 50 people a day moving into Surprise.

This year the City of Surprise will cross that magical population threshold of 100,000 residents. It's a number that's hard to get your arms around, especially when you look back a mere 10 years ago and the population was hovering at about 7,000. We've come so far in such a short period of time. Our accomplishments are significant, however, challenges remain.

In FY 2005 City Council and City management committed themselves to "Getting Ahead of the Curve" to ensure that the City can handle predicted future growth. The advance planning will ensure that services and programs are in place when they are needed. The Council's commitment to "Getting Ahead of the Curve" can be seen in its capital budget for FY 2006. Among the more visible components are bricks and mortar ... the construction of new facilities to meet the growing needs of current and future residents.

FY 2005 was a year spent laying groundwork for a handful of large projects the City expects to begin in FY 2006. Design work began on a 97,000-square-foot Public Safety building to be built near the Superior Court at Surprise Center. The building will house the **Police and Fire departments**, **the Municipal Court and the Surprise11 Broadcast Center**. Construction should begin shortly after the first of the year. Planning is under way on a City Hall to be located at Surprise Center. **Construction on the City Hall** should get started in late FY 2006. Before the end of this year, construction will begin on **Phase 1 of Heard Museum West** at Surprise Center. It should be open by mid-year 2006. Also getting started in FY2005 was a \$10-million program to improve Bell Road. That massive road improvement project, dubbed "Building A Better Bell", will pick up considerable speed in FY 2006.

Despite the excitement of new construction, challenges remain. The City Council and senior staff agree on the challenges and priorities. Transportation is the TOP priority for the City. Our City Council is clearly focused and committed to improving transportation in and around our City and is prepared to dig deep to make those improvements happen in a timely manner. Other challenges and priorities include supporting public safety, expanding recreation opportunities, funding economic development and preserving Luke Air Force Base. More importantly, we must be able to sustain the programs that we start ... 10, 20, 30 or 40 years from now. Layoffs or cutbacks in services should not be options.

The City is in excellent shape financially. The budget is in the black and there will be no cutbacks in staffing levels or services. Our **property tax rate remains constant**, despite the pressure for more programs and services.

The transition from a small, rural community to a large and vibrant city is difficult. Several years ago the City's big push was toward attracting a grocery store, today our focus is on how our residents are going to get to the grocery stores.

Ahead of the Curve thinking:

Promote Community Development
Director Phil Testa to deputy city
manager in charge of long-range
planning to ensure planning is in place
to accommodate expected growth
and demand for services.



Doug Sandstrom Management and Budget Director

Surprise is in very good shape financially and that may seem obvious given our biggest-ever budget of \$335.8 million.

But the key is this: One-time expenditures, buildings and infrastructure, are paid for by one-time revenues, such as development fees. Ongoing operating costs, such as salaries and services, are supported by ongoing revenue streams, such as sales tax. In other words, **Surprise is living within its means**. If, for some unforeseen reason, construction came to a grinding halt, the City would still be able to maintain the current level of service to its residents. A few years ago, we couldn't say that; now we can.

The one-time expenditures – **big-ticket capital projects** – **comprise about 75 percent** of Surprise's 2005-06 budget and account for the gigantic jump from last year's \$195.8 million. Much of that money carried over from projects that were budgeted in previous years, but are still a work-in-progress, such as the Public Safety Building, replacement Fire Station 301, Bell Road improvements, wastewater treatment plant expansions and more.

But \$87.5 million is new capital money, slated to go for the following projects:

- \$36 million for Water Services including construction of three water reclamation facilities.
- \$5.4 million for Public Safety including construction of a **fifth fire station** in Sun City Grand, design of a **sixth station**, remodeling of Station 302, a joint training center, and technology enhancements for the Police Department.
- \$9.9 million for parks and recreational amenities including construction of a **25-court tennis and racquet facility** at the Surprise Recreation Campus; design and start of construction for **DreamCatcher Park**, a multi-use recreational facility specifically designed to accommodate those with special needs; a **skate park**; design of a Citywide trail/bike system; park development; and planning for **library expansion or construction**.
- \$17.9 million for transportation including right-turn lanes and other improvements to the Dysart/Grand intersection; year two of Building a Better Bell; drainage and road improvements in sections 10 and 11 and traffic signals.
 \$6 million has been set aside for a bridge at Deer Valley Road, just in case Maricopa County is ready to move forward with the design, which would provide another east/west access route.
- \$18.3 million for general City operations including **design of a new City Hall**, expansion of Community and Recreation Services offices and construction of a maintenance yard, purchase of broadcast center equipment, as well as vehicle replacement, street maintenance and information technology updates and software.

The 2006-07 budget is based on 7,000 new home starts with a new 1.5 percent construction sales tax dedicated to transportation. It is expected to net the City \$12 million this fiscal year.

The City is expected to hire 88.27 new workers this year (including part-time, seasonal) for a total of 601 full-time employees (657.4 counting part-time, seasonal). Eighteen of those positions will go to the Fire Department - 15 are needed to open the Sun City Grand fire station - and 21 to the Police Department.

Transportation

Transportation is the No. 1 priority of a five-year capital improvement plan approved by the Surprise City Council this year. Of the total \$642 million budgeted, nearly \$290 million is slated to go for transportation. That includes \$220 million budgeted in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 (\$330 million if you count 2011) to accelerate completion of Loop 303.

Completion of Loop 303 south to Interstate 10 is included in the Maricopa Association of Government's Regional Transportation Plan, but isn't scheduled to be completed until 2015. The idea is that Surprise would borrow the money to complete the freeway; then get reimbursed in 2015. "That's a viable option for us now," said Surprise's Budget manager Doug Sandstrom. "It's on our radar screen and we're planning for it."

Other major projects include:

- Building a Better Bell improvements
- Intersection improvements at Dysart Road and Grand Avenue
- Road and drainage improvements in the rural areas
- Traffic signals
- Fiber optics to synchronize signal lights city-wide
- Development of new east/west arterial roads including bridges at Beardsley Road and Rose Garden Lane, and improvements to Deer Valley Road (joint projects with Maricopa County and other cities)
- Widening of arterial roads
- Park and ride lots, and bus stops

The majority of the projects would be paid for through savings, construction sales tax and development fees. The remainder, \$284 million, would have to be borrowed. Again, that would depend on Surprise's decision to fund early completion of Loop 303.







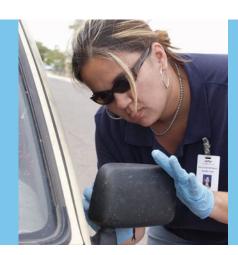
Ahead of the Curve thinking: Pay for Loop 303 to be completed early

evidence building

At the Surprise Police Department's new evidence building, crime technicians will be able to perform scientific on-site laboratory analysis or get a close-up look at the underneath of a vehicle via the convenient drop-down garage floor. A remake of the City's old sewer plant building, the 8,000-square-foot building with a walk-in freezer and drug room provides plenty of storage space for the next several years.

Ahead of the Curve thinking:

Take advantage of exisiting buildings; build big enough to last several years



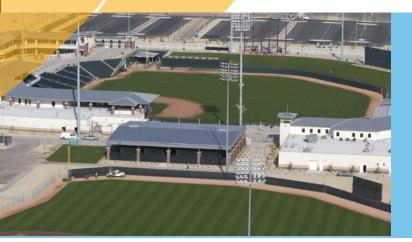
people achievements

Surprise Stadium is named the "Best Venue in the Valley to see a Spring Training game" in *Phoenix New Times* Best of Phoenix 2004. The Sports Turf Managers Association named the Surprise Recreation Campus the "Sports Field Complex of the Year."

Surprise's budget has received top national honors for the fifth straight year. Since the program's inception in 1984, only 900 entities have received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

Linda Kmetz' passion for prevention paid off when The Arizona Fire and Burn Educators Association (AFBEA) named the Surprise Fire Department Public Education Coordinator as the Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year.

Julius Early, the City's Signing & Striping Technician, won first-place in a sign placement competition sponsored by the Arizona Chapter of the Maintenance Superintendents Association. It took him 1 minute 33-seconds to install an anchor, sleeve, post and sign.



Ahead of the Curve thinking:
Creation of a City-wide strategic
plan is in the budget for this year!
2005-06 is the first year of funding
for a \$642 million, five-year capital
improvement plan

snapshot

June 2004 June 2005

Population 68,000 89,000

Land Area 75.5 square miles 76 square miles

Housing starts 6,443 (July 2003 – June 2004) 7,075 (July 2004 – June 9, 2005)

New businesses 141 167

Sales Tax \$25.3 million \$35 million

Police calls 55,600 60,450

Fire calls 6,628 7,500

Court filings 12,326 16,200

Public schools 9

Number of City402 full-time495 full-timeemployees17 part-time12 part-time

150 seasonal/temp 205 seasonal/temp

Ahead of the Curve thinking:
Through its new Small Business Assistance
Program, free one-on-one coaching
is available to existing and would-be
entrepreneurs. The idea is to tap new
resources to stimulate Surprise's economy.





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